

January 20, 1984

LB 130

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Did you originally have in that bill also that you would provide all the education for these preschools?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Wasn't that amended out on the floor?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Peterson, what was in that bill was that the Department of Education would develop a voluntary program that any preschool or day care center could voluntarily participate in and obtain some kind of accreditation.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: So what you are really saying is it was voluntary but it was an opening wedge to go into that direction.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, I would never say that. I simply said it was a voluntary program and that is what has worked in other states and it has never been mandatory in any other state. It has always been a voluntary program for improving standards.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Oh, I have, you know, dealt with the Department of Education and a lot of voluntary things become a demand, so I just have a feeling that what this is is an opening wedge to finally get to the point where we take children from the time they are born until the time they die and we are in a situation where, as Senator Sieck has said, we just don't want to trust parents anymore. And I really feel that this is a parental responsibility. I would encourage the body to vote against the bill.

PRESIDENT: If there is no one else to speak on the measure, I...Senator Haberman, do you want to speak again? Very well.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, due to my talking I hadn't had time to look at the letter that was mailed or how it...to Gail Flanery, Legislation Coalition for Children, 314 So. 68th Ave.,